

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
8 June 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Arab-Israeli Situation Report
(As of 7:30 p.m. EDT)

1. Cairo radio reported at 6:30 p.m. (EDT) this evening U Thant's announcement in the Security Council that the UAR had accepted the UN call for a ceasefire. There is no information at this writing to indicate whether or not a ceasefire has become effective on the fighting front. Damascus and Algiers radios continue to insist that their countries will carry on the fight.

2. Shortly before the Egyptian acceptance was announced in New York, an Israeli spokesman in Tel Aviv claimed that by nightfall today Israeli forces had cut off all escape routes out of Sinai after fierce fighting. He added that the remnants of two Egyptian armoured divisions and four infantry divisions had been trapped. Another spokesman in Jerusalem stated that Israel controls the "western shore of the Sinai" along the Suez Canal with only one small pocket of Egyptian resistance remaining.

3. The government of Libya is attempting to quiet things down and with some apparent success. Attempted demonstrations were squelched today

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State Dept. review completed

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25X1 4. Morocco's King Hasan apparently wants to continue his good relations with the U.S. and Great Britain, but told an American embassy official today that he would feel compelled to break relations with the U.K. if it shipped arms to Israel.

5. Tunisian press and radio continue to report on the war in terms of an Arab victory, and to repeat charges of U.S. involvement--although U.S. denials are also repeated. President Bourguiba today told the U.S. ambassador that he continued to have strong feelings of friendship for the U.S. and would not break relations despite pressure to do this. The country returned to a state of relative calm today, after the rioting of two days ago.

6. This afternoon the Egyptian radio was still playing up charges of continuing U.S. air intervention, claiming even that U.S. announcements about the USS Liberty constituted U.S. admission of collusion with Israel. It is a battle against the U.S., Cairo says, and the Arabs have the oil, the pipeline and the Suez Canal--and "control of them would cause disastrous losses to the U.S."

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9, Arab reinforcements continue to arrive in Cairo but it is doubtful that many of them were there in time to participate in the fighting. Cairo radio and press reported that the advance contingents of Sudanese and Moroccan troops arrived today. Algiers radio states that the Algerian MIG squadron--probably MIG-17s--which reached Cairo this morning was directed immediately to the front.

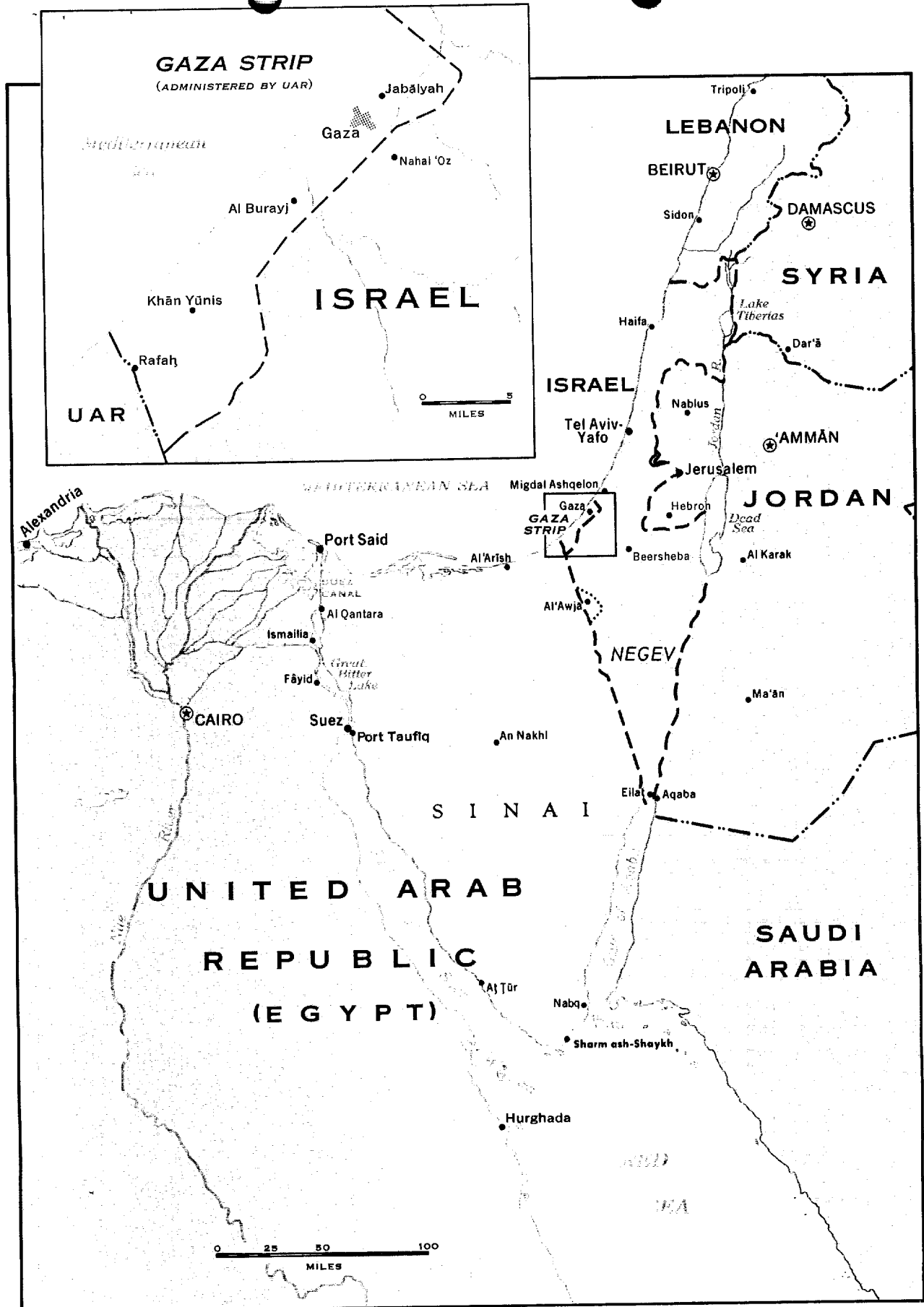


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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8 June 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Arab-Israeli Situation Report
(As of 11:30 a.m. EDT)

1. At approximately 9:00 a.m. today Israeli motor torpedo boats and airplanes attacked a US SIGINT ship off the coast of Egypt. Israel has expressed "abject apologies" and requested information on other US ships near war zone coasts. The Israelis have sent helicopters to participate in rescue operations for the ship, the U.S.S. Liberty, which at last report was said to be listing but not expected to sink. Four Americans were killed and more than 50 wounded by the attack.

2. Reports from Israel say that the Israeli forces have destroyed 100 Egyptian tanks in battles near Bir Gifgafa and the Mitla pass, bringing the total number of Egyptian tanks destroyed to nearly 300. Cairo claims that Egyptian aircraft are attacking successfully Israeli armor forces near al-Arish.

3. The Jordan-Israeli border continues quiet and King Husayn told a news conference that Jordan is observing the ceasefire suffering "tremendous losses" due to Israel's overwhelming air superiority. An official Israeli communique said that Syrian artillery was shelling Israeli border villages in the Huleh valley north of the Sea of Galilee. Other reports indicate small scale skirmishes between Syrian and Israeli forces along the Syrian-Israeli border, and Israeli air raids on Syrian forces.

4. Cairo announced today that it will not agree to a ceasefire and called on other Arab states to

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continue the "holy war" against Israel.

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5. Despite the rout of Egyptian forces in Sinai, military contingents from other Arab nations are still expressing their intention of joining the war effort.

6. The United States today requested an urgent Security Council meeting. Press reports indicate that the Council is expected to meet later today.

7. The Arab states are scoffing at US denials of involvement on the side of the Israelis. Radio Damascus argues that since Arab forces are shooting down "an average of 100 planes daily", the Israeli Air Force could not hold up without outside support. Apparently in ignorance of American and British offers in the U.N., the radio goes on to demand that the US and the UK "declare to the world the nature of the military actions

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carried out by the units of the Sixth Fleet and the British fleet on the eve of the Jewish attack." Cairo has claimed that an air battle took place today between the Egyptian Air Force and a patrol of Israeli Mirage aircraft escorting a squadron of British Canberra aircraft. Two Mirages were said to be shot down, with the loss of one Egyptian plane.

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9. The American embassy in Moscow is making preparations to meet an anti-American demonstration against the U.S. role in the Middle East crisis.

10. Press reports indicate that Algeria's state oil organization took over some 10 percent of the 560 gasoline stations operated by the Esso and Mobil companies.

11. In what appears to be the first Arab criticism of the Soviet Union in the current crisis, Tunisian newspapers today attacked the USSR for sponsoring the ceasefire resolution in the U.N. Security Council, which prevents the Arabs "from administering the coup de grace against Israel."

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8 June 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Arab-Israeli Situation Report
(As of 4:30 p.m. EDT)

1. Egypt has reversed its previous stand and accepted a UN ceasefire, without any demand for a withdrawal of Israeli forces back to the pre-war borders.

2. Syria still has not accepted the ceasefire and the Israelis now can turn their full weight against them. Reports continue of battling on the Israeli-Syrian front.

5. ARAMCO is evacuating 400 of its ill employees and certain dependents, including children, against the wishes of the Saudi Government. The company has 2,300

Western employees in Saudi Arabia. Somewhere between 1,000 and 3,000 special tribal troops have been brought to Dhahran to protect foreigners and the installations.

6. The US Embassy in Beirut expects tomorrow, June 9, and the weekend to be particularly tense days with a strong likelihood of attacks against the Embassy and its personnel and American installations in Lebanon.

8. Egyptian radio today claimed that during a Cairo television interview with a captured Israeli pilot, he "confirmed the American and British collusion with Israeli aggression." The pilot was alleged to have said that American planes had bombed Egyptian airbases on the first day of the battle. The radio broadcast also stated that copies of the filmed interview have been distributed "all over the world."

9. The Arab-Israeli military situation appears quiet on all fronts. Small pockets of Egyptian resistance remain in the Sinai Peninsula but there is no large scale fighting according to an Israeli military spokesman. It was also announced that the

Syrian shelling of Israeli border villages north of Galilee had paused and that the Jordanian border was quiet with Israeli forces holding the West Bank of the Jordan.

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Arab-Israeli Situation Report
(As of 8:00 a.m. EDT)

1. The Jordanian claims that Israel broke the ceasefire this morning appear to have been wrong. The statement the prime minister gave our embassy about the movement of Israeli tanks may have been prompted by observation of a small Israeli force engaged in blowing a bridge and consolidating a position in the Jordan River valley. The Israelis say that the operation is completed, that there are no bombings or shellings going on in Jordan, and that the ceasefire remains intact. The prime minister may have been the victim of bad intelligence.

2. Israeli military spokesmen now deny that any Israeli troops are actually on the banks of the Suez Canal.

3. Cairo reports shooting down six Israeli aircraft which were attacking the Egyptian capital and three

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others over the Canal. Amman Radio claimed that on 7 June Jordanian and Iraqi forces downed 26 Israeli planes. Total Israeli aircraft losses still appear relatively modest, but Tel Aviv's continuing reluctance to publish personnel casualty statistics suggests that Israeli ground forces have been taking considerably more punishment.

4. The UN Truce Supervisory Officer stated to the US Consul at Jerusalem this morning that the Israelis had just launched an intensive air and artillery bombardment of Syrian positions opposite the Central Demilitarized Zone. The UNTSO said it was an apparent prelude to a large-scale attack in order to seize the heights overlooking the Israeli border.

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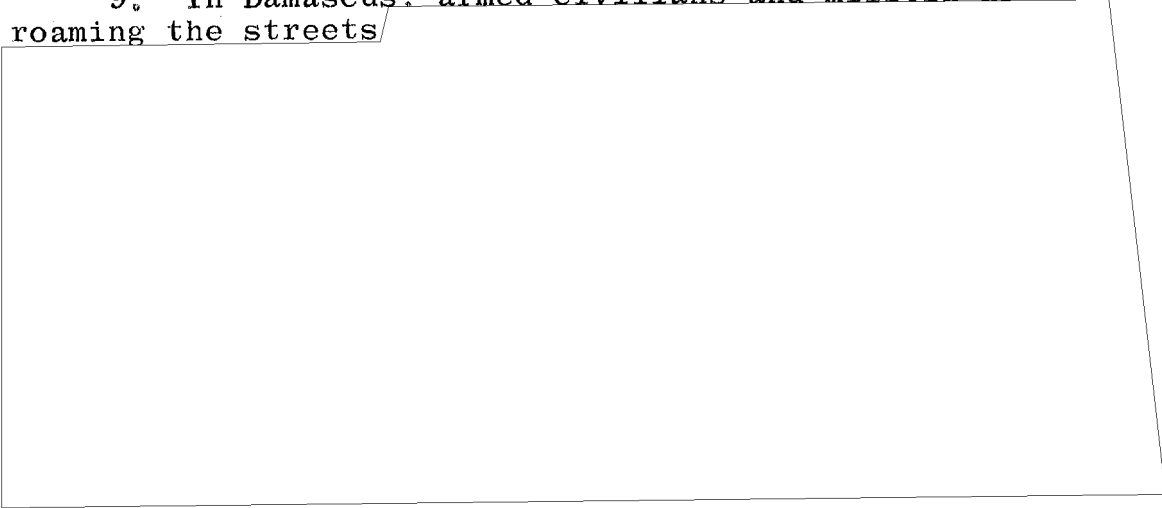
6. Jidda Radio broadcast this morning an alleged promise by the Pakistani Government to offer "unlimited quantities of arms, ammunition and men". Pakistan's statement may be intended to counter the earlier Indian verbal support for the Arab side.

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8. Ambassador Nolte in Cairo feels that as the defeat of the UAR armed forces becomes apparent to the populace, the danger to US citizens will greatly increase. He comments that "even if the UAR Government was willing to protect us, it may be unable to do so," and he therefore requests the option to evacuate all Americans from Cairo.

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25X1 9. In Damascus, armed civilians and militia are
roaming the streets



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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Arab-Israeli Situation Report
(As of 2:30 p.m. EDT)

1. Israel has announced the successful conclusion of five battles in Sinai with Egyptian forces involving armor and aircraft. The Israeli forces have taken all main accesses to the Suez Canal, but have declined to say whether or not they have actually reached the canal.

2. In a continuance of Arab charges of British participation in the war a Syrian military communique reports that Syrian forces have shot down a Canberra and a Vautour over the northern Galilee area. The Syrians also report shooting down several other enemy aircraft and destroying an Israeli artillery battery in the small scale engagements between Syrian and Israeli forces today.

3. According to a Cairo radio broadcast, "MIG squadrons" are arriving in Egypt from Algeria. The number and type of MIG fighters which Egypt is receiving from Algeria is not known, but only eight are known to have arrived

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5. Press sources in Moscow are reporting that the Soviet Union will apply sanctions against Israel for failing to accept the UN Security Council call for ceasefire. Another press source stated today that ambassadors from the Arab countries to Moscow have requested the Soviets to take retaliatory measures against Israel.

7. Ambassador Goldberg reports that according to the Jordanian representative, Arabs at the UN are disgusted with the Soviets for supporting a simple ceasefire resolution, mystified at yesterday's follow-up resolution, and unable to define the Soviet motivation. Arabs are now apparently less concerned with the Strait of Tiran than with their own territorial integrity. Reportedly, other Arabs recognize that Jordan fought with distinction when the chips were down, and do not criticize it for seeking a ceasefire.

8. The Tunisian Foreign Minister has explained to the American ambassador that he does not believe Egyptian charges that US and UK aircraft were involved in the fighting; this is clearly a smoke screen by Nasir to cover his setback. Tunisia does not intend to break relations with the US, but will not take a public position on the Cairo charges, and will pretend to go along with the Arabs in order to "keep our credit for the future." The Foreign Minister is pessimistic about

any early change in the attitude of Arab governments, despite the resounding military setback; since too much of the Arab world thinks emotionally and not rationally. Practically all Arab governments had lined up with Nasir and would now have to go along with his policies whatever the consequences. Tunisia's aim was to remain part of the Arab community so that its influence can be used constructively.

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